

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 291508Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0075

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV PU

SUBJECT : GUINEA/GUINEA-BISSAU RELATIONS

REF: A. LISBON 3659

B. CONAKRY 1317

1. LISBON TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE COMMENTS THAT PAIGC SEEMS HAVE "DEGREE CONFIDENCE THAT SEKOU TOURE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY MOVE TO INCORPORATE GUINEA-BISSAU IN GUINEA ... IF HE EVER HAD ANY SUCH INTENTION". IT MAY BE THAT, YEARS AGO, SEKOU TOURE THOUGHT OF INCORPORATING GUINEA-BISSAU UNDER HIS DOMAIN. BUT THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT HE HAS ANY SUCH DREAM AT PRESENT; NOR ARE THERE SIGNS THAT PAIGC LEADERS HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS.

2. PAIGC, NEVERTHELESS, HAS GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO KEEP GOOD RELATIONS WITH SEKOU TOURE. THIS HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN EASY, AND THERE ARE SIGNS THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL EITHER
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IN RECENT MONTHS. PAIGC ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE "TRANSFER OF

POWERS" CEREMONY IN CONAKRY (AS WELL AS BISSAU AND LISBON) WAS UNDOUBTEDLY PART OF THIS EFFORT. IN FACE OF SPINOLA REFUSAL, GUINEA-BISSAU LEADERS HAVE NOW APPARENTLY BACKED DOWN (REF B). IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT ONE REASON PAIGC IS THINKING OF HOLDING SMALL AND DISCREET CEREMONY IN BISSAU, WITHOUT INVITING FOREIGN REPRESENTATION, IS THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED GUINEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE.

3. THERE HAS NOT BEEN MUCH NEWS COVERAGE IN GUINEA RECENTLY REGARDING PAIGC OR GUINEA-BISSAU. ONLY EVENT COVERED BY SUBSTANTIAL PUBLICITY WAS SIGNATURE OF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION (CONAKRY 1199) AND GUINEAN (FALSE) CLAIM THAT THIS WAS FIRST SUCH TREATY SIGNED BY GUINEA-BISSAU.

4. IT IS NO SECRET THAT SEKOU TOURE OPPOSED ANY PAIGC CONCESSIONS TO PORTUGAL, AND SPECIFICALLY THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO ANY WEAKENING ON ISSUE OF CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. PAIGC HAS SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED SEKOU TOURE'S PRESSURES ALONG THIS LINE. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT THAT SEKOU TOURE DID NOT SPEAK OF GUINEA-BISSAU/PORTUGUESE ACCORD IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT UNSYG FARAH (REF B). IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT GUINEAN MEDIA HAS NOT EVEN ANNOUNCED THAT ACCORD HAS BEEN REACHED.

5. THUS, THOUGH WE RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF GUINEAN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER GUINEA-BISSAU, THERE REMAIN SOME INTERESTING QUESTIONS ON HOW GUINEA/GUINEA-BISSAU RELATIONS WILL DEVELOP AFTER INDEPENDENCE. IS IT POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ARISTIDES PEREIRA (WHO UNTIL RECENTLY HELD PLACE OF HONOR AT GUINEAN OFFICIAL RECEPTIONS) AND THAT BROTHER OF AMILCAR CABRAL COULD BE ADDED TO SEKOU TOURE'S ROGUES GALLERY OF "PUPPETS OF IMPERIALISM"? IT SEEMS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE AND WE STRONGLY DOUBT THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN. BUT SOME PARTS OF ALGIERS JOINT DECLARATION -- CONCERNING FUTURE COOPERATION WITH PORTUGAL -- COULD GIVE SEKOU TOURE THE IMPRESSION THAT PAIGC IS MAKING SAME SORT OF COMPROMISES WITH "COLONIALISM" THAT, IN HIS EYES, SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAVE MADE.

6. ANOTHER INTERESTING ASPECT OF THIS SITUATION IS THAT WITHDRAWAL OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS FROM GUINEA-BISSAU REMOVES ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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BELIEVABLE THREAT TO GUINEAN SECURITY. MANY OF GUINEAN POLICIES IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAD BEEN JUSTIFIED LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS LEGITIMATE RESPONSE TO THIS THREAT. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES WILL OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THIS ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION.
MACDONALD

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